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Newsletter

DI3 NC ECHO's Third Digitization Institute

Special points of interest:

- Digitization Institute III a smashing success
- North Carolina Metadata Coordinator Hired

The School of Information and Library Science (SILS) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill was once again the site for the Digitization Institute, August 4-8, 2003. The SILS computer lab and library staff was courteous and helpful as usual. Scott Adams, Director of Information Technology, made sure that any software that we absolutely needed and could provide for him was installed for our use. Although the institute was held during intercession when no lab staff was technically available to assist us, staff often answered questions and fixed routine technical difficulties promptly. Admittedly, it was as difficult to use another facilities lab, but SILS was the only facility in North Carolina with enough scanners to host this institute. Even then, the 24 participants had to share the 9 scanners. The new Student Services Assistant, Lara Bailey, was very helpful. She periodically checked in to be sure we had everything we needed, watched for the catering delivery men, called in any maintenance or-

ders the moment they were reported and was always willing to help out if needed. Lucia Zonn, Marcia Tauber, Shawn Jackson and Catherine Lazorko were also available to assist if needed.

Since several instructors returned to this workshop, much of the content delivered at the institute was similar to that presented at DI2. It was apparent, however, that the instructors utilized the evaluations and feedback in order to improve their slides and activities. New instructors and renewed interest in other aspects of digitization prompted workshop changes. In the last institute, less emphasis was placed on web design, which was folded into the scanning portion of the institute. It became obvious during DI2 that novices needed help in web design and page development. Jan Blodgett, College Archivist at Davidson College, who taught metadata at the previous institutes, returned to teach the web design section. Since recently complet-



Kathy Wisser, NC ECHO's new Metadata Coordinator, works with ASCWG member Martha Battle Jackson

ing the History of Higher Education web portal, her experience with both developing context and collaboration made her the ideal instructor. Kathy Wisser, chair of the NC EAD Working Group, taught the metadata section, which introduced the more common metadata schemas and illustrated Dublin Core in more detail. This was the first institute for Kathy both as an instructor and as an institute facilitator, providing input and support for participants and other instructors.

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Katherine M. Wisser is hired as NC Metadata Coordinator

Katherine M. Wisser has been hired to serve the state of North Carolina as its first ever Metadata Coordinator. Kathy was for two years a library fellow with North Carolina State University Libraries where she worked extensively with their Special Collections Department encoding finding aids using EAD, experimenting with XML, and developing an EAD template with Joshua G. McKim, the former

project manager for NCEAD. When Josh decided to seek his fortune in England, Kathy took on the daunting volunteer job of acting chair of NCEAD while still working full time at NCSU, pursuing a doctorate at UNC-CH, teaching courses there at SILS, and also serving as vice-president/president elect of the Society of North Carolina Archivists. In addition to these impressive achievements, Kathy also is

involved nationally with many working groups including the Society of American Archivists, most recently agreeing to chair SAA's EAD Roundtable. The state of North Carolina is indeed fortunate that this talented and charismatic leader in the field of metadata has chosen to share herself with us this year. Kathy's office is in the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collection Library, Duke University.

DI3 (Cont'd from front page)



Renee Dusenbury, Central Carolina Community College, scans a document from her collection.

Unplanned, informal discussions of NC ECHO grants, NCCAT seminars, "Beyond Books and Buildings" and other questions from the week occurred on the final day before the participant presentations. A grant discussion was left off the agenda because it seemed to put undue pressure on participants to apply for grants, even if they were not quite ready. It became clear that all presentations needed to be a formal part of the agenda. Also, it was clear that the participants wanted handouts for every subject covered at the institute.

On the first day of the institute, participants were asked to give a brief discussion regarding their plan of action following the institute. They were reminded of this throughout the week and some participants made further inquiries regarding our expectations of these presentations. They were told to discuss how they were going to approach a digitization project now that they attended the institute. They could say they needed to reassess their collection, form a committee, scan and mount a collection to the web, just report how they hope to use the information and resources from the institute. To help formulate their thoughts, participants were encouraged to use the extra reflection pages in the booklet. To further assist them, I created a project outline based on the NC ECHO Digitization Grant application form and elements taken with permission from East Carolina University's last application. Although the purpose of this

exercise was not only to measure how the key elements of digitization had been absorbed but also to promote reflection and encourage feedback and discussion, this was not a popular exercise according to evaluations and other comments received during the last day.

The most common statements made during the presentations were "I need to rethink my project," or "My expectations for what I could do immediately after the institute have been altered." When asked if those thoughts were disappointing or a barrier to future digital initiatives, some responded that they felt that they now had a more realistic idea of what they could do with their staff, time and resources. One participant responded that his project "can be done, just not as easily as expected." Many did not consider the impact on their reference staff following the successful mounting of the online exhibit. Other common observations included the need for administrative and information technology support, collaboration, the need for more training in copyright, metadata, web design, and maintenance and sustainability.

Some presenters opted to demonstrate completed digital projects. Eloise Vowotor demonstrated Fayetteville State University's section in the "Beyond Books and Buildings" Project. She also discussed future online exhibits, including more Charles W. Chesnutt material. As part of an institution already skilled at digitization, Emily Gore demon-

strated some of East Carolina's digital projects. She also volunteered to help participants and NC ECHO with web page disability compliance (508) issues if needed.

While all presentations were cautiously optimistic, positive comments such as "I feel empowered," "It was fun to scan things," and "I have more projects in mind," were particularly satisfying.

I believe that participants went back to their libraries with a great deal of knowledge and a healthy dose of reality involving digital projects. As always, I felt that we overwhelmed them with information and still ran out of time, with the final day feeling particularly rushed. The evaluations and interaction with participants provided information that will be beneficial to planning the next institute. One good suggestion was for NC ECHO to meet with administrators and technical services staff to talk more about digitization from a practical standpoint. All input indicated that we were on the right track in developing the desired product. The instructors and facilitators involved are creative and have already begun to brainstorm about restructuring the institute.

Donna Baker,
NC ECHO Project Librarian

The most common statements made... were "I need to rethink my project," or "My expectations for what I could do immediately after the institute have been altered."

Wendell Berry Quote Inspires NC ECHO Staff to Help NC's Cultural Institutions Work Together

*"When a community loses its memory,
its members no longer know one another.*

How can they know one another

if they have forgotten or never learned one another's stories?

If they do not know one another's stories,

How can they know whether or not to trust one another?

People who do not trust one another, do not help one another, and moreover,

They fear one another..."



Kevin Cherry, former NC ECHO Project Manager and Wendell Berry enthusiast.

Spotlight

The Jesse Helms Center Wingate, NC (Union County)

NC ECHO visited the Jesse Helms Center this summer where we enjoyed a wonderful tour of the public areas and exhibits and an in-depth behind-the-scenes tour of the Jesse Helms Archives.

The Jesse Helms Center is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, non-political organization supported by private tax-deductible donations and exists in order to preserve and promote the principles of free enterprise, representative democracy, and traditional values upon which US Senator Jesse Helms built his life and career. The work of the Center involves education, historical preservation, and citizen awareness. These missions are accomplished through a broad range of programs for students, scholars, and the general public.

Opened to the public in April 2001, this beautiful 23,000 square foot facility includes several large exhibit galleries, a theater, classrooms and meeting areas, and a large, state-of-the-art archival vault. Visitors to the Center are treated to a variety of public exhibits including a replica of Senator Helms' office complete with copies of the actual pictures and cartoons that hung on the walls of his Washington DC office and precise placements of everything from furniture to desktop items. Near the replica office is a display of political cartoons collected by Helms. Helms said of his cartoon collection, "To me, it prevents my making the mistake of taking myself too seriously." Further into the tour, there are exhibits showing Jesse Helms in photographs from his early childhood through the present and an art gallery displaying specially commissioned and quite spectacular wire sculptures by the artist Rex Eagle depicting people the Senator chose as having been key influences in his life.

Exhibits honoring North Carolina business leaders, highlighting the careers of US Presidents with

whom Helms has worked, honoring international world leaders, and celebrating the United Nations comprise the rest of the Center's public area displays. The United Nations exhibit and the Charles A. Cannon Free Enterprise Hall of fame are among the most interesting and creative government-related exhibits in the state. The U.N. exhibit features a replica of a U.N. Security Council desk at which visitors can sit and listen to clips from actual speeches given before the Council. Visitors can cast mock votes on real issues and view the actual outcomes and also take a quiz testing their knowledge of the U.N. The Free Enterprise Hall of Fame has a series of touch-screen monitors on which visitors can view a short biography of each person included.

The Jesse Helms Center has created an environment in which children and adults alike can interact with the exhibits and each other. During NC ECHO's site visit, the Center was hosting a Free Enterprise Leadership Conference – a program similar to summer camp in which over 200 high school students participate each year. Students need only to apply to this program; if they are accepted, the week long conference is free. The Center's classrooms and galleries were bustling with activity. During the conference, the students learn about free market economies, personal responsibility, and the roles of government in a constitutional republic through interaction with successful local and community leaders and a variety of hands-on activities.

The Free Enterprise Leadership Conference is but one of the many programs sponsored by the Jesse Helms Center. A less noticeable program but one that is just as important is the processing and referencing of the Jesse Helms Archives. The Center houses material from Helms' long career in public service in the Senate as well as personal papers, papers from his early days at WRAL and the State Bankers Association, vast numbers of photographs, and significant holdings of personal artifacts and memorabilia. The archival collection is restricted from public use only by the National Archives and Records Administration's stipulations for

use of federal records. Jo Jackson, the Jesse Helms Center Archivist with whom NC ECHO met and who gave our staff a marvelous personal tour of the storage vault, references the collection for the public and also is responsible for processing it. The collection is diverse and contains thousands of linear feet of manuscripts, many hundreds of volumes of published material including Jesse Helms' Senate Office library, and shelves of realia including many one-of-a-kind gifts from friends, admirers, and associates of Helms. Material culture items of particular interest in this collection are a cloak given Helms by the Dalai Lama and Helms' manual typewriter.

The Jesse Helms Center is a gift from the Senator to Union County where he was born and raised. Its public rooms are made available to and used by community groups, students, local civic organizations, and many others. The Wingate Town Council holds its meetings here. The Center offers a lecture series featuring a variety of business and government leaders, and it holds teacher seminars in which nationally recognized educators share ideas and offer training on topics such as the Bill of Rights, the Constitution, and the American Presidency. Admission to the museum is free, and groups are welcome. The Archives is free and open to the public by appointment.

People generally have an initial and marked reaction to hearing or seeing the name Jesse Helms. Regardless of that arguable fact, the Jesse Helms Center in Wingate will surprise and enlighten all visitors. NC ECHO strongly encourages its readers to drop in for a visit and experience all it has to offer.

For more information on the Center's exhibits and programs and the Jesse Helms Archives, call (704) 233-1776, or visit them on the web at www.jessehelmscenter.org.

Kim Cumber
NC ECHO Project Archivist



A wire sculpture of Jesse Helms by Rex Eagle from the Center's Collection.



Statue of an American Bald Eagle in front of the Jesse Helms Center.

Mark Your Calendars!

*Digitization Grant
Letters of Intent are due
November 22nd, 2003.
See the State Library's
website at*

<http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/lsta/lsta.htm>

*for more grants
information.*

About this Newsletter

This is the first issue of what NC ECHO intends to be a quarterly newsletter containing interesting and useful information on the NC ECHO Project

and its various programs. The newsletter will be made available electronically through the NC ECHO web portal, and hard copies will be distributed to interested

parties who do not have access to e-mail or the Internet. Please send any suggestions or contributions to the editor, and we hope you enjoy our newsletter.

Newsletter

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North Carolina ECHO, *Exploring Cultural Heritage Online*, is the World Wide Web's doorway to the special collections of North Carolina's libraries, archives, museums, and historic sites. Supported with federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds made possible through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources, this innovative project seeks to build a state-wide framework for digitization in order to facilitate deep, wide, and comprehensive access to the holdings of North Carolina's cultural institutions.

NC ECHO Project Vision – All of North Carolina's cultural institutions work together to make the state's unique cultural and historical resources accessible for the education and enjoyment of people of all ages in the state, the nation, and the world.

NC ECHO Project Purpose – The NC ECHO portal provides a single point of entry for the citizens of North Carolina to the unique resources of North Carolina's cultural institutions in order to enhance education and learning.

Criteria for Inclusion in the NC ECHO project – Any cultural institution (library, archive, museum, historic site, or organization), which maintains a permanent, non-living collection of unique materials held for research and/or exhibit purposes and open for the use of the public will be surveyed. Denominational/associational collections will be surveyed, but individual church collections will not. Art museums will be surveyed but galleries will not. Zoos, arboreta, and parks will not be surveyed unless as a part of their mission they hold collections as described above.

Through a comprehensive needs assessment and opinion survey, site visits, consultations, workshops, and grant programs, NC ECHO encourages cooperation and collaboration among differing types of cultural institutions and among institutions of varying levels of technological and professional expertise. It is NC ECHO's belief that by working together North Carolina's cultural institutions can achieve greater successes and can do more good than they can by working alone.

The Access to Special Collections Working Group (ASCWG)—NC ECHO's Advisory Board

Chair

David S. Ferriero, University Librarian and Vice Provost for Library Affairs, Perkins Library, Duke University



David S. Ferriero

Members

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Joseph Covington, Director of Education, NC Museum of Art

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David A. Smith, Media/Tech Coordinator, North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching

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Resource Members

Steve Hensen, Director, Planning and Project Development, Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke University

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